Montgomery Bell Academy 4001 Harding Road, Nashville, TN 37205
27 October 2013 Vol. XIX, No. 1

Camp Laney: Boats, Bonzai, and Battleball

The Boat Challenge

By Julian Habermann

One of the best activities at Camp Laney was the annual boat race on the last day. Each of our cabins of about ten people made up the teams. In the race we tried to get as many people across and back a small stream in a cardboard boat that we built ourselves. We could send as many people across at one time as we would like, but many people found themselves swimming in the stream, dragging the boat back to shore.

The first thing we had to do was build the boat. We were limited to using only two pieces of cardboard, a roll of duct tape, some plastic wrap, a Sharpie, and a utility knife. We had only an hour to build a boat with an original name and slogan written on it. This task really tested everyone's creativity to think of a design that was durable and could hold a person. Everyone in the cabin had an important job and got a say in the design. But quickly the time ran out. All of the cabins then brought their boats, finished or not, out to the fire pit. It was really cool to see all of the different designs of boats. They ranged from small canoes carrying one person to big floating boxes carrying two people at a time. We then carried our boats to the waterfront.

Connor Krumm, Tye Herbstreit, and Doug Gaw put their boat-building skills to the test.

After we lined up our boats, everyone was wondering who was going to sink first. Right when we got in the water, people started sinking. Seven of the ten boats sank off the bat. The stream was filled with soggy pieces of cardboard and wet seventh graders. It was down to three boats and after one boat got two people across, they sank. It was my cabin seven against cabin fifteen. But when I got into our boat, I sank halfway across so cabin fifteen won.

After we cleaned up, we all left with a new sense of teamwork and having bonded with our cabin mates. No matter if we won or lost, everyone had a great time along the way. The races finished our great trip in a fun and memorable way.

In This Issue

Camp Laney .....1 - 5
On the Hill.....6 -10
Features.....11 -16
Dr. Love.....16
Entertainment17-23
Sports.....24 -26
Big Red sports 26-31
The Back Page.....32

CAMP LANEY

The High Ropes: A Camper's Perspective

By Jonathan Brown

The high ropes courses were among my favorite parts about Camp Laney. It was very exciting and also a little bit nerve wracking being on a wire or a rope suspended in the air. I also enjoyed being cheered on by my classmates when I was doing a course, and then cheering on my classmates along with others when they were struggling to jump off a platform or to walk across ropes and wires. There were six high ropes courses including the Bonzai, the Pamper Pole, Kamikaze, Multitraverse, and the Zip Line, and the climbing tower. My favorite was the Kamikaze ropes course because it was one of the highest and longest courses.

The first course my group did was the Bonzai. On this course, I would climb up a wooden ladder where a Higher Ground employee would hook me into a cable above the wire that I was preparing to walk across. To the right and left of the cable were ropes that I grasped while I walked across the wire. At the time the wire looked higher than it really was. Once I got to the end of the cable there was a small platform that I got on so that I was hooked into a giant swing. What I had to do next was jump off the platform. I found it quite frightening at first, coming off of the platform and swinging through the air. I thought this course was quite fun.

Next my group went to the Pamper Pole, a tall wooden pole that looks like a telephone pole. To get to the top of the pole, I climbed up a ladder and then climbed up large staples in the pole. Near the top was a platform with a trapeze in front of it. There was also a very small circle on the very top of the pole with a trapeze in front of it. Everyone who participated in this course could choose if they wanted to jump from the top of the pole or from the platform just below it. I chose to jump off the platform. Climbing up the platform was more thrilling for me than jumping off of the the platform. Once I got to the top I counted to three and jumped. I next grabbed the trapeze bar and then was lowered down to the ground. This course was awesome.

Next my group went to the Climbing Tower, a four-sided wooden tower with seven or eight different climbing walls. The names of these walls were Cheesecake, Airmail, and the Widow Maker. The wall that I enjoyed most was Airmail because it was challenging.

After the climbing tower my group headed towards the Kamikaze. Once it was my turn, I climbed up a rope net until I arrived at a platform where I was hooked in. I was probably about sixty feet in the air. Next I crossed a series of planks, ropes, and wires until I got to two logs horizontally bolted into two trees. I was quite scared, wobbling sixty feet in the air on a rope. Once I arrived at the logs, I was hooked into another giant swing and was told to jump. This course for me was the best because it was the longest and extremely exiting.

Alex Massad

The Zip Line was the fifth course my group did. On the Zip Line I climbed up a tree with large staples in it and came to a platform where I was hooked into the Zip Line. Next, I jumped off the platform and zipped through the air for about fifty yards. Once Mr. Kimball and Mr. Cooper unhooked me from the Zip Line, there was a sprinting contest where I grabbed a rope, ran back towards the platform, and dropped the rope at a certain spot. When Mr. Kimball said go, I ran and picked up the rope and sprinted until I got to a platform where I was unhooked.

Finally, my group finished on the Multitraverse. There were two parts on this course. On the first part I climbed a ladder and walked across a wire with ropes above it to use for balance. On the second part of this course, I walked across a wire and leaned against a rope to the left of the wire for balance.

The ropes course was one of my favorite parts about Camp Laney. I also enjoyed getting to know my classmates better while waiting for my turn. I hope other people enjoyed the High Ropes as much as I did.

CAMP LANEY

Thomas Jouan

Table tennis rules during free time.

Mr. Boysen faces off against the entire seventh-grade!

Hunter Burch leads his group.

Charlie Buffkin

Tye Herbstreit and Gibby Gibson

CAMP LANEY

Joshua Meriwether and Cameron Jacobson

Blake Kirchenbauer

Front - Joseph Perazzini, and left to right - James Vest, Frank Wilk, Nick German, and Blake Andrews

Harrison Steanson

Peyton Brien

Sam Dugan, Will Pressnell, Cole Turner, and Braden Myers

CAMP LANEY

Alex Saavedra, Bennett Blackwell, David Hobbs, and Lucas Pao

Jake Herbstreit

Nick Nola with some crazy arm action

Kanayo Offodile

Carlos Soria-Garcia and Nikhil Peterson

Danny Lee

ON THE HILL

The Secret Life of Mr. Boysen

By Anonymous

Many have questioned the man that is Bozwaldo Sloski, A.K.A Boz, A.K.A "Mr. Boysen," but none have uncovered the true story of this elusive man. I have done months of research and believe that I have finally uncovered the life of Mr. Boysen.

His tale begins when he was a young child. He grew up in Russia in a town called Anadyr, located in the northeast part of Russia. He lived the life of a normal boy until the town was attacked and burned, and Bozwaldo had to flee. He was five when he left home. I have not been able to uncover what Bozwaldo was doing from age five to fourteen, but I do know that when he was fifteen, he arrived at Sendai, Japan. I believe that for those nine years of Bozwaldo's life that no one knows about, he lived in Japan because when he arrived at Sendai he could speak Japanese fluently. Bozwaldo then apparently decided that he would dedicate his life to military action, so he applied to the Ninja Academy. He trained for ten years and was given top marks in all areas. It was difficult to find the Ninja Academy, and when I did, I needed a translator to understand the language. I got an interview with the grandmaster of the academy, and in that interview he said, "Bozwaldo was the best student I ever had, but he was quiet, he rarely said anything, and whenever he did, it was short and compact. When he graduated, we all thought he would join the Japanese Ninja Squad. We did not expect his life to have the outcome that it did."

Bozwaldo Sloski
A.K.A. Mr. Boysen

After Bozwaldo graduated from the Ninja Academy, he enlisted in the Russian army. His ninja skills were greatly appreciated in the army. Eventually, he was promoted to a spy. He was sent overseas to spy on the American nuclear arsenal, but he gave himself up to the Americans and became a double-agent. He passed on false information to the Russians while relaying information to the Americans. After eight months, however, the Russians found out about his double-agency, and he was forced to stay in America. He believed, after that, that he wouldn't be much use to the army anymore, so he resigned. He decided to devote his life to writing. He spent many years trying to write a bestseller, and finally got one when he wrote *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone*. It was never claimed as his though. When he was editing it, his Ninja Academy peer and rival, J.K. Rowling, ambushed him and stole his writing. Bozwaldo tried to claim that the story was his, but he lost the appeal and was fined $100,000 for wasting the court's time. This ordeal put Bozwaldo on the streets. He got involved with a secret organization to overthrow evil incognito figures in American society. This new life led him to Vanderbilt, as a tennis coach, where he followed a teacher named Jack Brown. He captured Brown and had him arrested. However, the celebration didn't last because just three days after the arrest of Brown, Bozwaldo was called to investigate a teacher named Michael Anderson at a preparatory academy called MBA. Bozwaldo posed as a tennis coach and a grammar teacher. Coach Anderson was onto him immediately. Neither could get the dirt on the other, and it remains a delicate stalemate to this day.

Bozwaldo remains incognito and has never been uncovered until today. The writer of this article would be in grave danger if his name were divulged. For that reason the author of this article remains anonymous.

ON THE HILL

Homeroom Representatives 2013 - 2014

EIGHTH GRADE

Mr. Anderson: Ford Ray, Thomas DeRoche, Tayshaun Munoz, Gordon Pollock
Mr. Brown: Ben Coulthard, Tucker Harwell, David Blaufuss, Carter McClellan
Mrs. Christeson: Thomas Carr, Gray Patterson, Alexander Roberts, Franklin McKenzie
Ms. Ellery: Owen Hughes, Daniel Lee, Michael Garcia, Ian Beyer
Mr. Kimball: Wesley Hall, Jackson McFadden, Rashad Townsend, Ty Allen
Mr. McMurray: Benjamin Dotye, Jack O'Brien, Yosef Howard, Harrison Kidd
Mr. Russ: Harrison Graves, Bradford Holladay, William Kinard
Mr. Spiegl: Ruff Maddux, Ivan Franco, Ben Elasy, Colin Snell

SEVENTH GRADE

Mr. Boysen: Sam Dugan, Joel Elasy, Thomas Jouan, Jackson Link
Mr. Chauvin: Henry Clark, Graham Ragsdale, Reed Campbell, Will Presnell
Mr. Cooper: Adric Kimbrough, Hunter Burch, Walt Dobson, Will Caver
Mr. Dean: Aditya Priyadarshi, Marshall Summar, Jackson Lampley, Blake Andrews
Mr. Euverard: Cole Turner, Hugh Sullivan, Andrew Sutphin, Otto Olafsson
Mr. Gillespie: Blake Kirchenbauer, Jake Herbstreit, William Wheeler, Ben Wood
Mrs. Roberts: Julian Habermann, Josiah Francis, Alex Massad, Sam Funk
Mr. Russell: Garrett Murphy, Ross Johnson, Nikhil Peterson, Lucas Pao
Mr. Sawyer: Charlie Buffkin, William Davis, Paul Lee, Cole Crider
Mr. Wims: Luke Bernatavitz, Ian Hall, William Stewart, Tillman Dean

WELCOME

New Faculty in the Junior School

Mr. Josh Clark
Speech and American Government

Ms. Maggie Raines
English 8

Welcome to the MBA Family!

Tristan Michael Simpson
Born on September 26th, 2013
Time of Birth: 2:43 am
Weight: 7 lbs, 2 oz

Proud Daddy: Coach Simpson
Proud Grandfather: Coach Frank Simpson

TO THE HILL

New Students of the Class of 2018

Ray Lee

Previous school: Woodland Middle
Experience at MBA so far: Great
Sports he plays: Rifle
Favorite class: Math

Tayshaun Munoz

Previous school: Madison School
Experience at MBA so far: Pretty good
Sports he plays: Football, lacrosse, and wrestling
Favorite class: English

Robert Li

Previous school: Woodland Middle
Experience at MBA so far: Likes it
Sports he plays: Basketball, football, and wrestling
Favorite class: English

Interviews by Henry Rhodes

Ms. Raines receives a warm welcome to the Junior School from Henry Rhodes, Alex McClellan, Alex Bulgarino, Daniel Lee, Ivan Franco, Jack Capizzi, and Mac Roberts.

IMAGES ON THE HILL

FEATURES

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast Cancer: Awareness and Prevention

By Adric Kimbrough, Jr.

October is breast cancer awareness month. Breast cancer is a malignant tumor that starts in the cells of the breast. Although men can get breast cancer, this type of cancer mainly affects women. It accounts for 16% of all female cancer and about 24% of invasive cancers in women. Causes of breast cancer vary. Personal lifestyles, dietary habits, and other environmental factors are linked to breast cancer, including whether there is a family history of breast cancer. Early detection of breast cancer is very important. The earlier a person discovers the breast cancer, the better the chances of survival. Symptoms include skin irritation around the breast, vomiting, and loss of appetite. One of the main ways a woman can know whether she has breast cancer is the presence of a lump in her breast. All lumps are not cancerous, or malignant. Some are benign, meaning that they are not cancerous. Women can perform self-breast exams to determine the presence of any lumps on the breast. If the woman discovers a lump, she should go to the doctor for further treatment. All lumps cannot be detected through a breast examination. This fact is why it is important for women to have regular mammograms, especially after the age of 40 or if they are at risk of having breast cancer.

Breast cancer can be beaten if there is early detection and people are more aware of its causes and treatment options. The main way to treat breast cancer is through chemotherapy. Michelle Sneed, a breast cancer survivor, had Stage IV breast cancer. Breast cancer comes in stages; stage IV is the last stage and the most dangerous. She went through chemotherapy, and she lost weight and lost all of her hair. After she completed her treatment, she had to have surgery, but she is now a five-year survivor of breast cancer.

Montgomery Bell Academy has rolled up its sleeves in the fight against breast cancer, including selling wrist bands, having a bake sale, raising money for the Race for the Cure, and enrolling participants in the Race for the Cure. There are many ways people can participate in breast cancer awareness. For example, annually, I play in the Vinny Links Race for the Cure Golf Tournament. Together, we can prevent and beat breast cancer.

Big Brother/Little Brother Service Project at Safe Haven on October 16

FEATURES

A Recap of the Issue in Syria

By Mac Roberts

A dismantled building as a result of conflict
Photo from BBC News

Many people have heard about the issue in Syria and have heard about the accusations of the use of chemical weapons by Bashar Al-Assad, the President of Syria. However, most people do not know the full story of what happened and do not know of the events that led up to this most recent revelation. Many of these types of incidents take years and years to develop, and this story is no different.

The civil war between the rebel forces and Bashar Al-Assad's forces had been taking place long before the actual scandal with chemical weapons. The conflict began when Syrian rebels first protested Assad's rule in March of 2011. In May of 2011, the Assad and the Syrian governments decided to deploy the army, and at this point tanks started rolling through the streets on the news. By August of 2011, the Western world was calling on Assad to step down from his position as the country's leader. Obviously, he did not heed the advice. In November, the conflict was starting to become so nasty that the Arab League suspended Syria's membership in their organization. As the fighting continued to worsen, the U.S. shut down their embassy in Damascus, Syria's capital. Later that year, the UN accused Assad of committing war crimes. After that point, the conflict began to get horrendous. By January of this year, the bodies of sixty-five people, who appeared to have been killed execution style were found in Aleppo, Syria's largest city. In February, a massive car bomb went off in Damascus that killed dozens and wounded hundreds. Finally, the US and United Nations intelligence communities believe "with high confidence" that Assad's government forces used sarin nerve gas on rebel forces close to Damascus in August of this year.

Citizens assess the damage.
Photo from CNN

This accusation is what really got the conflict on the map because the use of chemical weapons is taboo in the global community. President Obama viewed this action as a line in the sand and vowed retaliatory action against Syria. In September of this year, he was actively lobbying Congress to support his actions. In September, the Congressional Research Service printed a report that said, "Secretary of Defense Hagel and Secretary of State Kerry have stated that the United States is providing lethal assistance to vetted members of the Syrian opposition. In response to the alleged chemical attack in August, the President is seeking congressional authorization for a punitive military response intended to deter the Assad regime from using chemical weapons in the future. Members of Congress have offered divergent views concerning the reported use of chemical weapons and proposed responses."

However, movement on Syria seems to have taken a back burner now because of the government shutdown, which began in October and continues at the time of this writing. It will be interesting to see what effects, if any, the shutdown will have on President Obama's support of Syrian strikes and its opposition by some members of Congress.

FEATURES

Vanderbilt Rape Case

By John Lang

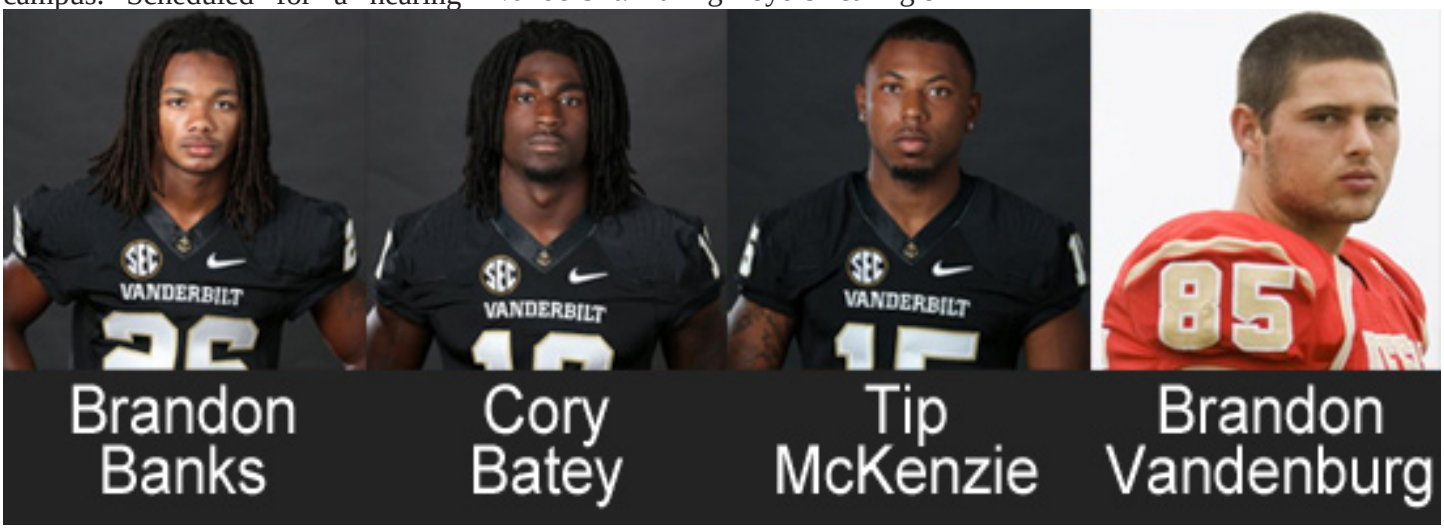
On August 9, 2013, four members of the Vanderbilt football squad were accused of raping an unconscious twenty-one-year-old Vanderbilt female student on June 23. The incident took place in Gillette House on the Vanderbilt campus. The players are Brandon Vandenberg, Brandon Banks, JaBorian McKenzie, and Corey Batey. The day after, Vanderbilt suspended all four players from the team and banned them from campus. Scheduled for a hearing on October 16, all four former players are free on bond while they await trial.

One of the four players, JaBorian "Tip" McKenzie, transferred from Vanderbilt to Alcorn State after being charged with five counts of aggravated rape and two counts of sexual battery. On Thursday, September 12, the President of Alcorn State said that McKenzie's participation in an Alcorn State football game was an "error in judgment."

Soon after, star wide receiver Chris Boyd was charged with being an accessory after the fact and taking part in a cover-up of the sexual assault. Boyd was suspended from the team but allowed to attend classes. Then, Boyd appeared in court on September 13. He pled guilty to a lesser charge of trying to cover up the incident. This plea allowed Boyd to escape a felony conviction as long as he testified against his four former teammates. After this plea deal, Vanderbilt dismissed Boyd from the team. However, he is still a student at Vanderbilt. During Boyd's hearing on September 13, the district attorney read a text message from Boyd, indicating that starting quarterbacking Austyn Carta-Samuels had helped moved the unconscious woman's body after the alleged rape. Then prosecutors later said that Boyd's text messages wrongly identified Carta-Samuels, and he remains on the football team.

Because of these incidents, Vanderbilt is studying recruiting practices and assault prevention programs on student athletes. Should Vanderbilt have done more research on these players before recruiting them?

Coach James Franklin speaks with the press.



FEATURES

Obamacare (Affordable Care Act) Benefits

By Mike Miccioli

With parts of the Affordable Care Act going into effect this month, many people have been questioning its necessity and even calling it "socialist." The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as the PPACA, the Affordable Care Act, ACA, and Obamacare, is a bill that was signed by Barack Obama on March 23, 2010. Obamacare attempts to make health care easier and more convenient to obtain as well as making it less expensive. One of its features includes allowing a child to stay on his or her parents' health care plan until the child turns 26. This feature allots time for a young adult to finish school and find a job, so he can afford to pay for health insurance. Another part of the law prohibits health care providers from refusing to provide coverage because of a pre-existing condition. It also prevents the providers from charging more for people with pre-existing conditions. Furthermore, insurance providers cannot discriminate against someone's gender.

People are also protected from companies discontinuing coverage. This action is made illegal unless a customer commits fraud. The bill also requires businesses of fifty or more workers to provide health insurance to full-time employees or pay a fine. For small companies, the government encourages them to provide insurance for their workers by giving them benefits such as tax deductions. In addition, Obamacare helps poor people get help by expanding the income boundaries of Medicaid, raising the cutoff to 133% above the poverty line. Obamacare helps people save money by guaranteeing that one will not have to pay for preventative measures such as colonoscopies and mammograms, two extremely common procedures. There is also a financial cap on how much someone can pay with his or her own money.

These beneficial provisions outweigh any minor complaints Republicans might make about the policy, generally fabricated or blown out of proportion. Frankly, these critics care only about getting reelected rather than doing what is best for our country and think they cannot get approval from their district if they support anything of the President's.

The Affordable Care Act: Its Disadvantages

By Will Weaver

The Affordable Care Act (also known as ObamaCare) has raised much controversy with the public, especially with the Republicans. The funny thing is that surveys have gone out to see who supports ObamaCare. Some interesting cases occurred when a person was asked if he or she supported ObamaCare. The person would reply no, but when asked if he supported the Affordable Care Act, he said he was a supporter. Some people just don't like Obama, and they don't take the time to know his plans.

The Affordable Care Act has many flaws. First of all, there will be many new taxes to help insure millions of people. Second, people who already have insurance might have to pay more, because insurance companies will have to cover sick people. Third, you must get coverage by January 2014, or you must pay a fee if you can afford it. Finally, the government will have control over doctors, which has caused many doctors to want to leave the practice.

These details are just a few of the flaws of the Affordable Care Act, but they are enough to enrage citizens who cannot afford to pay the new taxes.

FEATURES

Survival Tips

By Bradford Holladay

You never know when your life will be put to the test against nature in a dire circumstance. In order to be prepared for the worst, you must have the knowledge and ability to deal with whatever situation life throws at you. In this issue, you will learn how to survive venomous snake bites, get out of quicksand, and identify edible plants.

1. Snake Bites: If you are ever bitten by a venomous snake, do not panic. The natural human tendency is to panic, but as your heart rate increases, the venom spreads across the body much faster, killing tissues and organs much more quickly. After you have been bitten, try to find medical assistance immediately. Until trained professionals arrive to tend to the injury, let the wound bleed out naturally to possibly remove some of the poison, then tie a bandage about 2-4 inches above the affected area to slow the movement of blood, but do not tie a tourniquet. If you remember not to panic and find medical care, then the chances of surviving a snake bite are greatly increased.

2. Quicksand: If you are ever in a situation in which you are stuck in quicksand, there are a few things important to your survival. Do not panic or make any sudden movements or the sediment of water and sand will gradually spread apart, resulting in sinking. The next thing you will need to do is slowly lie on your back and pull your feet out of the sand so that you are floating. Paddle to the closest area of land and pull yourself out. If you keep calm and make every movement as if it were in slow motion, you will be able to escape safely.

3. Edible Plants: If you are lost in the wilderness, one of the first things you need to do is find a food source. Deciding whether or not a plant is edible can be tricky, and you must go through a long process in order to make the best choice. First, find the plant or berries, but make sure there is a plentiful supply of whatever you will be testing. Do not eat or drink anything within eight hours of the test. Choose the plant that you are testing and divide it into three parts, including the leaves, stem, and roots. Be sure to check for parasites on the vegetation. Touch the plant to see if it is contact poisonous, and if it gives you a rash or any kind of irritation, discontinue the test. Then hold one of the portions of the plant against your lip for three minutes. If there is any reaction, the plant is not edible. Place the plant on your tongue for fifteen minutes and then chew the plant in your mouth for 15 minutes without swallowing. After these tests, swallow the plant and wait for eight hours without eating or drinking. If there is no effect on your body, gradually eat a little more of the plant each day. Your body should gradually gain immunity towards the substance, and you will have a plentiful food source for survival.

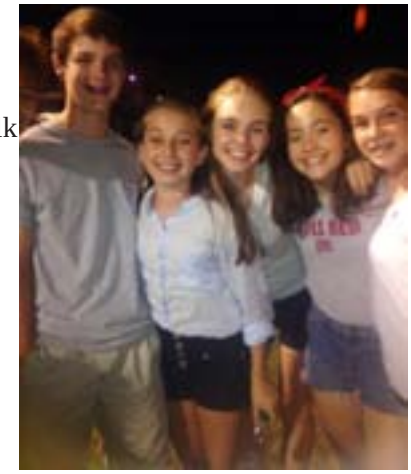
Be Prepared

Be Aware

Be Ready

FEATURES

The Doctor is in: Dr. Love Returns



Chris Hawkins is Dr. Love.

Dear Doctor Love,

The Halloween mixer is almost here, and I would like to talk to some girls. How do I talk to girls? How can I impress them? What can I do to get them to like me?

Sincerely,

Hopeful 7th Grader

Dear Hopeful 7th Grader,

It might help if you go up to a girl or group of girls with a friend to help start conversation. You should try to start a conversation by introducing yourself and asking her name. Since you will be at the Halloween mixer, ask why she chose the costume she is wearing, if she is wearing a costume. Then, just be yourself. Talking to girls and listening to what they have to say can make a good first impression, and she will talk to you more after the mixer at football games or other events. To get a girl to like you, just be yourself. I cannot stress that enough. If she likes you because of the way you are, you do not have to be so nervous around girls. Make sure you shower and put on deodorant because girls do not like to hang out with guys that smell bad. Look relatively nice when you are around a girl. Wear khaki shorts and a solid colored T-shirt. You can wear athletic shorts and a synthetic shirt if you are at a football game or other sporting event, but try to look good at mixers. I hope you take my advice and have fun talking with some cute girls.

Dr. Love

iPhone Mania

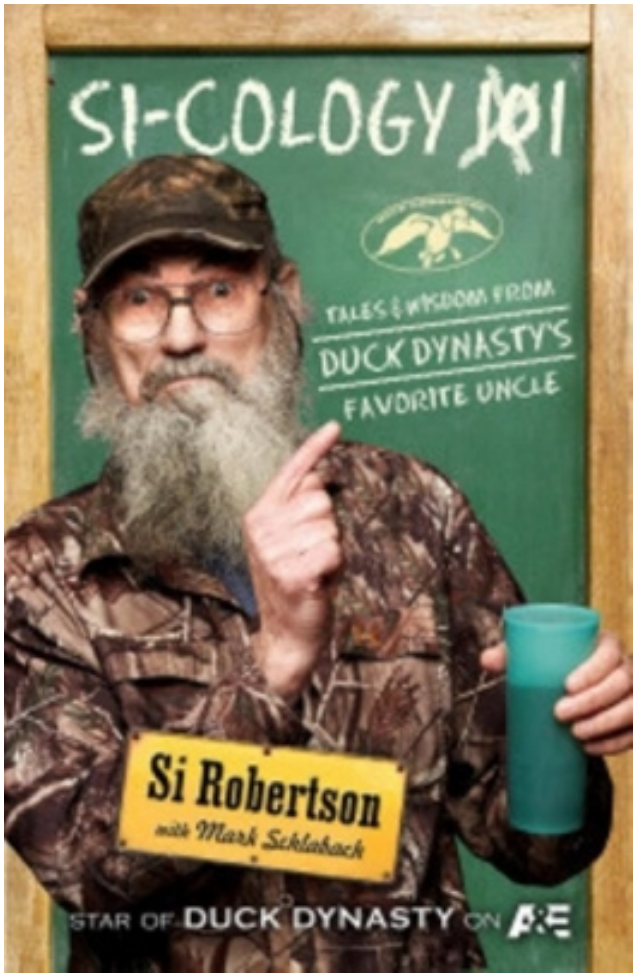
By Ben Evans

There are two new iPhones that came out this year. They are the iPhone 5S and the iPhone 5C. The 5S is the higher end, better, and more expensive phone. The 5C is one-hundred dollars cheaper than the 5S and is contained inside a plastic casing. The "C" in the iPhone 5C stands for color. The new colors are green, blue, yellow, pink, and white. The 5S is the same slim and sleek design as the iPhone 5, but with all new colors, a fingerprint sensor built into the home button, Apple's new A7 processor and M7 motion coprocessor, and a camera that is impressively better than all of the previous iPhone cameras. The 5S colors are silver, gold, and space gray. The fingerprint or Touch ID sensor lets you unlock your phone using your fingerprint instead of a passcode. Also, you can use the sensor for making iTunes purchases instead of typing in your password. The camera has been taken to a whole new level on the 5S. The new camera has eight megapixels, a dual LED flash for better low-light picture taking, auto focus, face detection, panorama, auto image stabilization, photo geo tagging, built in photo filters, burst mode, and a new slow motion camera. Burst mode means that the camera takes multiple photos and chooses the sharpest one to show you and keep. The iPhones also come loaded with new features on iOS 7, the new apple software for all of their mobile devices. One of the new features is the Control Center that has some options for quick access like Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and Airplane Mode. Another big feature is Airdrop, an app that lets you quickly share photos, videos, contacts, etc. with the touch of a button. The new iPhones and iOS7 are undoubtedly the start of a new era in iPhones.

ENTERTAINMENT

Si-cology: Behind the Beard

By John Spurgeon



Si-Cology by Si Robertson is a great way to look into the life and mind of Si Robertson. For those of you who don't know, Si is a star of A&E's *Duck Dynasty*, a show about redneck Louisiana millionaires selling duck calls. This book was hilarious, of course, but it showed the personal side of Si's life and his life before *Duck Dynasty*. It conveyed the hard part of Si's life. An example would be that his son, Scott, at the age of eleven, attempted to jump out of a two-story window. Scott was suicidal because of brain damage he received when he was born. An odd part about this book was that it was written in a series of stories. As I read, this book sounded like something Si would tell around a campfire. I loved this element of the book. It made me feel that I knew Si personally. I have always been a huge fan of the show, and I will never look at it the same way after reading this book, which was not what I expected--stories about the show and things they did on it. Rather, it was an in-depth look at Si's life, but this book still features hilarious patented Si Robertson moments. In one chapter, Si is in Vietnam and wants to go home. He thinks that a good way to get back to Louisiana is to create a good lie. The passage says, "Sir, might I have a word with you?" I asked very politely.

"What is it Private Robertson?" he said.

"Well, sir, my wife is extremely ill and the doctors can't figure out what's wrong with her," I said. "I really need to fly back to Louisiana to check on her. I think she might die."

"Robertson, I have some good news for you," he said. "We've received a telegram this morning from your wife, and she's been released from the hospital. Everything's going to be fine. There's no reason for you to go home."

I scratched my head in disbelief.

"Sir, with all due respect, I have to tell you that we must be the two biggest liars in Vietnam," I said. "I don't even have a wife!" (4-5).

This passage was one of my favorites in the book because Si uses it to describe how wrong lying is. This passage is only a preview of what is to come. There are many things in this book that Si fans didn't know about him. For instance, most people don't know that Si has a wife and two kids. They just don't appear on the show. This book tells us how Si met his wife, and how they have managed to live happily for many years. It also tells about his children, and the struggles he had to face with them.

All in all, I believe that Si has written a great book for people of all ages who find themselves asking the question: "Who really is Si Robertson?" I recommend this book to any *Duck Dynasty* fan and anyone interested in watching the show.

ENTERTAINMENT

The House of Hades Book Review

By Will Weaver

WARNING: This article will contain some **SPOILERS**. If you plan to read the book, use caution when reading.

In *The House of Hades* by Rick Riordan, the story begins where the last book, *The Mark of Athena*, left off. Percy and Annabeth are still falling into Tartarus, and the crew of the *Argo II* is filled with despair. The recently rescued Nico diAngelo has joined them and is leading them to Epirus, where the Doors of Death are located. There the crew hopes to seal the doors and rescue their friends. Meanwhile, in Tartarus, Percy and Annabeth are barely surviving. Their struggles include finding many monsters they have encountered in their past adventures and nearly getting killed by Kelli the empousa (last seen in *The Battle of the Labyrinth*). Their journey becomes slightly easier when they are rescued by Bob, formerly Iapetus, the Titan (last seen in *The Demigod Files*). They encounter many new monsters, gods, titans, and giants to get to the Doors of Death. There they must leave Bob to defend the elevator out of Tartarus while Percy and Annabeth return to their friends on the surface. The *Argo II* has dealt with giant turtles, stealing dwarves, the not-so-cherubic Cupid (Eros to you Greeks), and many other horrors. They finally arrive at the Doors of Death where Frank Zhang is promoted to the rank of Praetor by Jason and leads Nico's summoned undead warriors against the army of monsters. There they are finally reunited with Percy and Annabeth where they, with the help of Hazel's new friend Hecate, defeat the giant Clytius, the anti-Hecate. The heroes are then faced with a new challenge. They must take the *Argo II* to Athens to stop the giants from awakening Gaea, but Reyna, who is now their friend, must take the Athena Parthenos to Olympus where it must be used to save Camp Half-Blood.

Being an avid Riordan fan, I always feel a great sense of rage and sadness when he announces a sequel will be coming next fall. But it is my duty to inform all of my fellow Percy Jackson fans that the next sequel, *Blood of Olympus*, will come out in the Fall of 2014. Overall, *The House of Hades* was, as always, a hilarious way to interpret Greek and Roman mythology, and I would recommend the book to anyone.

ENTERTAINMENT

Sea of Monsters Review

By John Spurgeon

The movie *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Sea of Monsters* had some good parts and some bad parts. In the end, though, the bad parts just outweighed the good, and I did not think this movie was a very good one.

Some of the good parts in the movie were some minor changes that were not in the first movie. In this movie they changed Annabeth's hair color from red to blond, which was how it was in the book. They also made the part of Dionysus more pronounced and important in this movie. I thought that they at least attempted to follow the plot of the book. In the first movie they basically took the book's plot and tossed it out the window. They did have to edit out some parts of the book that couldn't fit in the movie or combine them with another part. I did not like how they combined parts that would have been better just being left out. A final good quality I saw in this movie was the adding of Clarisse to the cast of characters. They completely forgot about her in the first movie, and including her added more to the plot and to the overall feel of the story.

The biggest problem I saw in this movie was the age of the main characters. In the book, Percy and his friends are in the seventh grade. In the movie it looks like Percy is about to finish his first year of college. The same goes for Grover and Annabeth. Another bad aspect was the special effects. When the mechanical bull invades Camp Half-blood, it looks like the kind of animation you would see on a YouTube video. Another bad trait about this movie was character development. Tyson, Percy's Cyclops half-brother, was not characterized well. He was characterized so badly that it didn't even seem that sad when everyone thought he had died in the end of the book. A final criticism about this movie is aimed at the director for changing things from the book for no apparent reason. An example of this error is the *Princess Andromeda*, a cruise ship that Luke captured by bewitching all the passengers. It was supposed to be a gigantic cruise ship like the ones you see sailing around the Caribbean during the summer. Instead it was a small yacht. Almost none of the things that happened in the book on the ship happened in the movie. Another part that the director changed from the book was the sea monster that appeared at the entrance to the Sea of Monsters. In the book the characters are barely able to escape it, but in the movie their whole ship gets swallowed by the monster. When they're in the belly of the sea monster (somehow the whole ship is still in one piece) they have to use the Civil War ship's one hundred and fifty-year-old guns to blast a hole in the monster's stomach and sail out of it. When they leave the hole, the entire ship is submerged under water. The whole ship then floats to the top in one piece and is still able to continue.

If I had to rate this movie, the most I could give it is six stars out of ten. I thought it had a weak plot, bad book-movie agreement, and it was just poorly written. I thought going to see this movie was a waste of money and will not be seeing it again anytime soon.

ENTERTAINMENT

NHL 14 Review

By Robert Cowan

When most people think of sports games, they think of *Fifa* or *Madden*, but really people should be talking about *NHL 14*. This game is created by EA Sports and is the only NHL game on the market. *NHL 14* is the most realistic hockey game ever. Once again EA focused on making the game a better hockey experience. The new features that EA added are true hitting engines, new Be a Pro mode called Live the Life, new fighting engine, one touch deaks, and the *NHL 94*' mode. I will talk about each of these upgrades one at a time so you can understand all of them.

The first upgrade is the new true hitting engine. In past years checking in the NHL games, it was a one in ten chance you will get a explosive hit. This year EA made the hitting a lot better by adding size and weight as factors when hitting. Also with hitting they have added more realistic body movements when a player is hit. In *NHL 13* it was just the player that was hit falling over to the ice in a boring fashion.

The next upgrade is the Live the Life mode. Most people would know this as Be a Pro mode; most EA games have some version of this in all their games. The old Be a Pro mode was just your playing as your own character in seasons with whatever NHL team you wanted, which was really boring. Now the Live the Life mode is basically the same thing but with more interaction. Now you will be interviewed about the team you are about to play or about how you played in a game. You can either answer with a selfish answer or one about the team doing well, but whatever you choose, it can either help or hurt your likeability. You have four different ratings: fan, management, teammates, and your family. Each is affected by your action, answers and game skills. All of these new features help make the game more interactive.

Next is the new fighting engine. In all the previous NHL games, the fighting was in first person, and the movement was kind of robotic. Now the fights are in third person, and the movement is cleaner with one-punch knockouts, black eyes, and bruises. All make the fighting more interesting and the players last longer as while.

The biggest upgrade in the game is the one touch deaks. In all the *NHL* games before *NHL 14*, you had to click one button on the controller and your player would stop moving, and then you would make your move. Now, you will click the same button and move the left stick to complete your move. This featuer allows for quicker, better moves.

The last addition is *NHL '94* mode. This year is the 20th anniversary of the NHL franchise, and EA decided to put in a mode of the game so you can play *NHL '94*. EA turned the ice blue and made the mode have the same control as the original, but made it look like the new *NHL 14*

Pros

This game is somewhat of an upgrade from last year. I like the whole Live the Life aspect of the game, and the one touch deaks allow the game to be played more smoothly. Also, with the Winter Classic in the game, NHL Moments and NHL 94' mode add some diversity to what you can play in the game. The revised hitting helps make the game feel like a real hockey game. Also the fighting is so much more fun than previous games.

Cons

I know I said I like the fighting, and I do, but sometimes there is just too much of it. The smallest acts like hitting the other team's player too hard can cause a fight. A player can sometimes get up to five fights in a game, which really isn't that fun. Also the NHL 94 mode is kind of bland; if they made it like the real *NHL 94*, it would be better. The last complaint is sometimes the hitting is unrealistic. I know I said it was realistic, but sometimes it just gets ridiculous.

Overall, this game is really fun to play and is worth buying if you like sports games or like hockey. I would give this game an 8 out of 10.

ENTERTAINMENT

Madden 25

By Jack Capizzi

Madden 25 is the next chapter to the Madden franchise. The game is being called *Madden 25* instead of *Madden 14* because it is the 25th anniversary of *John Madden Football*. This new game has added many new features that mirror the new ways that football is being played today. Some of the new features are skills trainer, owner mode, and updates to the ultimate team.

The skills trainer game mode allows the player to improve on skills in passing, defense, running, or pre-play audibles. In running, you can learn to use the all-new precision modifier, which allows for more realistic and useful moves to get around a defender. In running you can also learn the option plays, one of my favorite new features to the game. When running an option, you can choose to run with your quarterback or toss the ball to your running back based on whom the defender tries to tackle. The options are perfect for combinations like Robert Griffin III and Alfred Morris, or Russell Wilson and Marshawn Lynch. In skills trainer, if you succeed in a drill a certain number of times, you are rewarded with an ultimate team player. The skills trainer is a fun mode that can be used to gain players, improve your skills, and learn more overall about *Madden 25's* new features.

Owner mode was the most anticipated addition to *Madden 25*. In owner mode, you can create an owner for the team of your choice and from there make decisions that will affect your team and fan base. Starting owner mode was the first thing I did when I connected to *Madden*. I created a wealthy owner of the Redskins. The first thing I wanted to do was to relocate the team. In order to move the team, you will have to know that if your team is already in a good stadium, you won't be able to relocate, and if you still want to, you can change the settings so that every team can relocate. I relocated to a place that I wanted to move to and so did my fans: London, England. Once I had chosen a city, I had to go through choosing a name (The Black Knights), uniforms, and a stadium (Deluxe Dome). Even though you might think you can move in right away, *Madden* makes you wait a season for the stadium to be rebuilt. I signed free agents like Hakeem Knicks and Randy Moss. I also was able to trade for Zac Stacy because I thought that, after Alfred Morris broke his leg and would be out for the season, I would need the help of a new running back. I am currently in my second season with the London Black Knights, and I love every second of it.

The last big addition to *Madden 25* is the new and improved ultimate team. When you start an ultimate team, you choose a star player that you want on your team that will determine what type of chemistry your whole team will have. One interesting add to the ultimate team is the players you get. Right now on my team I have Pierre Garcon, Tom Brady, Walter Payton, Marshawn Lynch, Adrian Peterson, Chris Johnson, Robert Griffin III, Dan Marino, and even Ray Lewis. You may think that this team is unstoppable, but it is actually a very low rating considering that

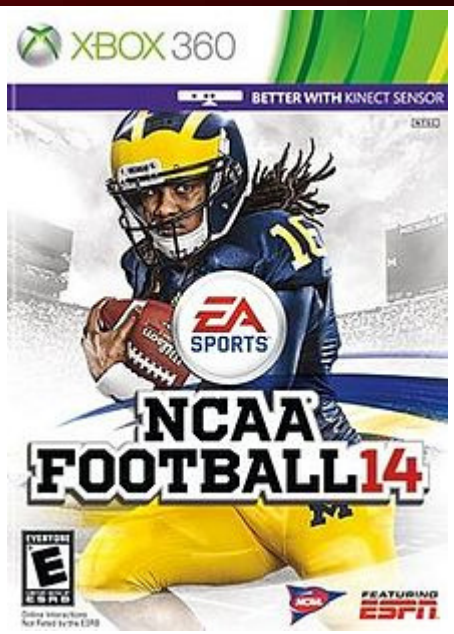
the players all have very different chemistries, and they do not play well together. Ultimate team for *Madden 25* is no doubt the best and most intriguing version yet.

Madden 25 in my opinion is the best *Madden* game of the whole franchise. The game has added new features to create a whole new generation of *Madden* and football in general while still keeping the feel of *Madden* familiar and one that everyone will know and love. *Madden 25* is another great addition to a game that will live on for years to come. I rank *Madden 25* as an 8.5 out of 10.

ENTERTAINMENT

NCAA Football 14 Review for XBOX 360

By Ben Coulthard



EA Sports released the *NCAA Football 14* game, and let's just say they decided to step it up this year. Initially, many people were saying the game was glitchy and overall not fun to play. EA seemed to hear the complaints and came up with some great additions to this year's game such as NCAA Ultimate Team, 2013 Season, and the Infinity Engine 2.

Ultimate Team has been a staple in *NCAA's* older brother *Madden* for a few years, so EA added it to the *NCAA* game. Essentially, with Ultimate Team you can play as college football legends such as Bo Jackson, Peyton Manning, and Tim Tebow from when they were still in college. You start out with a fairly bad team, but if you can work your way up and earn coins, you can then buy better players for your team. You can also use Microsoft Points to buy packs of players. You compete against other online players and try to win games to earn coins and max out your team skill, which is on a scale of 1-100. I believe this is the best part of the game. Overall: 10/10

2013 Season is the game mode where you play as your favorite team on offense and defense, and play all of the teams they play in the real world of 2013. For example, Alabama would start their season against Virginia Tech inside the Georgia Dome because that was who they played in the season opener. Honestly, I don't like this game mode because all you are able to do is play games, and you are not able to recruit players and practice. This addition is essentially the Dynasty Mode of the game. Overall: 5/10

EA Sports introduced Infinity Engine last year, and it was a big hit because you could deliver bone-crushing hits and juke defenders out of their shoes just by flicking the right stick a certain way. This year's update includes Stumble Recovery, where you can keep your runner upright by unleashing a combo of flicks if they stumble. My favorite part is the revamped Option Offense, which is utilized by many teams today. In past years, EA had only allowed you to run the Spread Option, but this year the Read Option is available. This option is used by teams such as the San Francisco 49ers with Colin Kaepernick, the Seattle Seahawks with Russell Wilson, and the Washington Redskins with Robert Griffin III. Overall: 10/10

EA Sports also kept the ever-popular Dynasty, Road to Glory, and Heisman Challenge Modes. Overall, I believe this game has been updated so well that it deserves an overall grade of 9.5/10.

ENTERTAINMENT

Halloween Zombie Survival Guide for 2013

By Joseph Hatcher

So, you are out on Nichol Lane trick-or-treating like a stereotypical MBA student, receiving copious amount of sugary, high-fructose corn syrup sweets in your pillowcase where you probably have a combined amount of twenty pounds of brand named candy. All of the sudden you hear an obnoxious moaning sound. You turn around swiftly and see a mob of twenty legitimate zombies. Armed with your skills from (insert over hyped shooter game here), you think you can take down the mob. But you need to know that there are some pieces of equipment that will help you on your quest to save the world.

What you need:

1. Machete- Nothing looks more hardcore than wielding a sharpened giant knife.

2. Steroids- May be wrong for (insert typical hated baseball player here), but the extra strength could be very helpful.

3. Ghillie Suit - Surely looking like a bush will protect you... surely.

4. Headphones - A pair of (insert popular rapper endorsed headphones here) because plenty of hardcore music could keep zombie moans from driving you insane.

5. Assault Rifle - It doesn't matter if it is Russian or American because it will always get the job done.

6. Candy - The bag is great for bashing the undead, and of course, the candy is delicious.

7. Sawed-off shotgun Pistol - A great close-range weapon as long as you don't break your hand.

8. Sweet tea - If anyone has learned anything from (insert bearded Louisiana duck hunter TV show here) sweet tea is a staple for any sugary, unhealthy Halloween diet, Jack!

SPORTS

MLB Post Season Preview*

** as per October 14th*

By John Spurgeon

Each team in the postseason has worked hard all year to get to where they are now. The Detroit Tigers and Boston Red Sox are playing in the ALCS (American League Championship Series), and the Los Angeles Dodgers and St. Louis Cardinals are playing in the NLCS (National League Championship Series). They are the only teams left of the thirty that started the season. Only twelve teams make the playoffs, so most of the teams are eliminated from making the playoffs about mid-season. Some teams, though, made strong pushes to try to make the playoffs.

The New York Yankees threw their money around all they could to buy their way into the postseason, but in the end fell short. They made a big mid-season trade to acquire outfielder Alfonso Soriano, who was the best player in baseball during the second half, from the Chicago Cubs. They also made some minor acquisitions like Mark Reynolds and Brennan Boesch. The Baltimore Orioles were another team that just missed the playoffs. They had one of the best offenses in the MLB with Chris Davis, who led the league in home runs and RBIs. They also had Adam Jones, who had a thirty home run -hundred RBI season. Nate McClouth was a key player who stole multiple bases all season and played a big role leading off. Their pitching, though, fell just short. They tried to help their struggling rotation by bringing over Bud Norris from the Houston Astros, who lost over one hundred and ten games this year. Norris still wasn't enough to help the Orioles, and they missed the playoffs. The Texas Rangers suffered the same fate as the Orioles and Yankees. They lost slugger Nelson Cruz to a suspension involving PEDs, and Alex Rios, who played well for the Rangers, didn't supply enough offense to boost the Rangers into the postseason.

The first round of the postseason is the Wild Card game. The top two teams that didn't clinch their divisions faced off in a one-game playoff to see who continues into the postseason. In the American League, the Cleveland Indians played the Tampa Bay Rays. The Indians faced an excellent pitching performance from Alex Cobb and were eliminated while the Rays moved on to face the bearded Boston Red Sox. In the National League, the Pittsburgh Pirates played the Cincinnati Reds. This year was the first year in history where three teams from one division played in the postseason. (the Pirates, Reds, and Cardinals, all from the National League Central). The Pirates defeated the Reds in the Wild Card game and moved on to the NLDS.

In the NLDS, the Atlanta Braves played the Dodgers, and the Cardinals played the Pirates. The Dodgers rode an excellent starting rotation to beat the Braves in four games. The Pirates and Cardinals had their share of pitching and hitting and went to a game five. Adam Wainwright threw a complete game in game five, and the Cardinals moved on to play in the NLCS against the Dodgers. In the ALDS the Detroit Tigers played the Oakland A's, and the Red Sox played the Rays. The Tigers and A's both had good pitching and a slow offense, and they went to a game five. Justin Verlander took a no-hitter into the sixth in game five, and the A's got eliminated from the playoffs. The Red Sox beat the Rays handily in four games with pitching and offense and moved on to face the Tigers in ALCS.

In the NLCS, expect the Cardinals to ride a good offense and excellent pitching to beat the Dodgers and move on to the World Series. In the ALCS, expect the Tigers to beat the Red Sox with excellent pitching. In the World Series, I expect the series to be tight, but I expect the Cardinals to pull ahead and beat the Tigers to get their twelfth championship ring.

SPORTS

Commodore Corner

By Ben Coulthard

The Vanderbilt Commodores are in the middle of their football season and are beginning workouts for both baseball and basketball.

Football: The Vanderbilt Commodores are 3-3 going into their bye week after what may not be considered a disappointing start to the season, but it is definitely not how they wanted their season to start. They begam the season playing a primetime game against the Ole Miss Rebels, and that game was quite a thriller. Vandy scored to take the lead with 1:30 left in the ballgame and looked as if they were going to emerge as victors, but the Rebels handed the ball to their running back Jeff Scott, who went 75 yards to the house with 1:07 remaining to win the game. After that game, the team has gone 0-2 in SEC play, losing to No. 11 ranked South Carolina and No. 14 Missouri. They are 3-0, however, against Austin Peay, UMASS, and UAB. In the Missouri game, wide receiver Jordan Matthews became Vanderbilt's all-time leading receiver with 2,990 career receiving yards. After their bye, Vandy has three straight tough games against No. 15 Georgia, No. 7 Texas A&M and reigning Heisman Trophy winner, Johnny Manziel, and No. 22 Florida.

Baseball: The Vanderbilt baseball team just began their preseason workouts and held their annual Omaha Challenge, which consists of many tough workouts such as dumbbells, pushups, and situps, where players aimed to reach maximum reps. Their fall practices begin on Monday at 9 PM, and practices on Tuesday-Friday will be starting at 3 PM. These practices will be open to the public and will lead up to the Black and Gold intrasquad scrimmage that will take place on November 14, 15, and 17.

Basketball: The Vanderbilt basketball team also started their preseason workouts and are looking to be more successful than last year after a more than disappointing 16-17 record. However, the team made it to the SEC Tournament semifinals only to lose to the eventual champion Ole Miss Rebels. There was controversy this offseason because their rising junior point guard Kedren Johnson announced he was "suspended as a student from Vanderbilt University for one year for a mistake I made, the result of using some very poor judgement. That also means I will not be on the basketball team this upcoming season." In addition, they also lost rising sophomore Kevin Bright since he returned to his native home of Germany to take care of his mother who was ill. He signed a pro contract to play in Germany so he could play basketball but also be close to his mother. It seems as if the basketball team will be set back at least a year after the losses of Johnson and Bright, but it is hoped that seniors Kyle Fuller and Rod Odom can lead the way.

SPORTS

Nashville Predators Season Preview

By Robert Cowan

The Nashville Predators are coming off a disappointing season last year, finishing 16-23-8 in the shortened season and failing to make the playoffs. The Predators got the 4th pick in the draft and selected Seth Jones, a 6'4 nineteen-year-old from Texas. Seth was the projected first pick in the draft but was left available for Nashville.The Predators jumped at the opportunity and drafted Jones. They also added Philip Forsberg at the trade deadline last year. He is also a nineteen-year-old star player from Sweden. Last year, the main struggle for the Preds was scoring, because they scored only 111 goals last year, the least number of goals scored in the league.

Trying to jump start their offense, Nashville brought in some semi goal scorers. The Predators acquired Viktor Stalburg from the Chicago Blackhawks, and also picked up Matt Hendricks from the Washington Capitals. Matt Cullen was another pickup for the Predators. He came from the Minnesota Wild. All of these players are a pretty standard bunch but might end up helping in the long run.

The Predators had a disappointing pre-season finishing 2-6-1. I know the preseason means nothing, but all of the preseason games show that there will be scoring problems for Nashville. If I were to predict the Predators season, I would say they will finish 8th in the conference because what Nashville did over the off season is not going to help them enough. They might produce more goals but not enough to make them a superstar team. Don't get mad at me, but I just don't think they have enough. They might get by on goaltending, but that most likely won't be enough to do well.

Novice Crew

by Will Weaver

The Novice crew team on the water

Everybody knows the varsity crew team is great, and they are sure to dominate in their upcoming regattas, but what about the novice team? This team is open to any high schoolers who are willing to try crew for the first time. The season has started out slow with learning how to row, how to lift the boat (definitely harder than it looks), and how to avoid capsizing and taking a swim. So far the boys have done well, learning how to row with eight people at a time. All of this training is preparation for our regattas, the first of which takes place on October 11. The team has been working feverishly to prepare for these races. All of the races are 5,000 meters, which is an extremely tiring distance.

This year eighth-graders John Lang, Mac Roberts, Will Weaver, and Franklin McKenzie were invited to participate at the high school level. Seventh-grader Conner Krumm was also invited to the high school level and is the novice coxswain. Eighth-graders Owen Hughes and Evans Looney have been varsity coxswains since last year. Crew is not an easy sport. It has been proven that crew is the most physically and mentally demanding sport, and it is hard to stay sane when most of the guys are getting home at 7:00 p.m. on a daily basis. Between the large load of homework and the long workouts, rowers have a hard time finding any free time. In our first regatta we drove to the Chattanooga Head Race. Our novice boats took on some really hard teams including McCallie and Nashville Rowing Club.

BIG RED SPORTS

8th Grade Football

By Palmer Thombs

The 8th grade football team finished a successful season earlier this month. The team finished with a 5-1 record with the only blemish coming in overtime against a very talented Brentwood Academy team. The Big Red started the season with a road victory over Ensworth. After trailing 6-0 at the half, the team overcame the deficit by shutting down the powerful rushing attack by the Tigers to win 15-6. The game was a team victory and a true example of the school's theme for the year, resilience. Next was a fast Coffee County Middle School team. An early rushing attack from Ford Ray and Harrison Graves gave the Big Red a lead that Coffee County was unable to overcome. The team followed the Coffee County victory with an intersquad competition, the Big Red Brawl which featured the boys competing in Ironman competitions that increased the intensity and energy of the team for the remainder of the season.

Next, Knoxville Webb traveled to Nashville to play the Big Red in hopes of a victory, but the Big Red shut down those hopes by defeating Webb 35-18. As the game went into halftime, Webb was hanging around with the Big Red, but a motivational speech on becoming a "different team" in the second half fired up the Big Red and led the team to victory. The Big Red came up with their first shutout the following week as the team defended their home turf and defeated the CPA Lions 36-0. Dayton Upchurch forced a fumble on the Lions' first offensive play, leading to a touchdown from Tay Munoz on the very next play. Munoz led the scoring attack for the Big Red by scoring three touchdowns, including one on a kickoff return. The boys received disappointing news the following week that their trip to Knoxville was cancelled due to rain. However, this news gave the Big Red time to prepare for their rival Brentwood Academy coming up next.

Prior to BA week, the team voted quarterback Ty Allen and fullback/linebacker Gordon Pollock as the team captains. The team prepared well and was focused all week before their big game against the Eagles. The Big Red continued to use the varsity game the previous week against the Eagles as an example that bad things can and will happen, but they can be overcome. The boys trailed at the half 14-6 but overcame the deficit to tie the game 14-14 at the end of regulation. The Eagles of Brentwood Academy were driving down the field and close to scoring when cornerback Fenner Pollock came up with a key interception to shut down BA. The Big Red got the ball first in overtime and scored but failed to come up with the two-point conversion. Brentwood Academy then scored and kicked the extra point to win the battle. To end the season, the Big Red went to Lebanon to play against a mixed middle school team. The team continued the great rushing attack that led them through the season thanks to a powerful push upfront from the linemen Wesley Hall, Jackson Abbey, Palmer Thombs, Dayton Upchurch, and Houston Hartle. Ty Allen connected to Will Nutter three times for touchdowns against the boys from Lebanon on the way to a 49-12 victory.

The victory over Lebanon truly wrapped up a great season for the 8th grade football team with contributions by each of the players on the team. The team showed resilience, battling through losing teammates to multiple injuries, including Alexander Roberts to a shoulder injury, Benjamin Dotye to a knee injury, and Rhys Rutherford to a wrist injury. This Big Red football team truly demonstrated resilience and why the tradition of MBA football has lasted and is still going strong after 115 years.

The 2013 Eighth-Grade Football Team

BIG RED SPORTS

MBA 2013-2014 7th Grade Football Team

By Doug Gaw

This year, our football team had a very large turnout with thirty-nine players, including our manager, Frank Wilk. Our coaches this year were Coach Tim Bryant, Coach Alex Dean, Coach Marcus Piggee, and Coach Chris Smith. We want to thank these dedicated men for helping us have a great season. The players learned about more than just football; we learned about how to be good teammates and gentlemen. Congratulations to the seventh-grade football team for a 6-2 record. Roll Red!

MBA Football Roster

#1 Hunter Burch
#3 Hugh Sullivan
#5 Sam Dugan
#6 Andrew Sutphin
#7 Garrett Murphy
#8 Cole Crider
#10 Charlie Buffkin
#11 James Vest
#12 Jack Rankin
#13 Peyton Brien
#14 Liam Huber
#15 Ross Johnson
#17 Cole Turner
#18 Josiah Francis
#21 Blake Andrews
#22 Henry Hylbert
#23 Nick German
#24 Jake Herbstreit
#26 Brendan Harris
#28 Tye Herbstreit
#29 William Wheeler
#30 Braden Myers
#32 Will Presnell
#34 Jackson Hannah
#45 Josh Meriwether
#52 Jackson Link
#55 Sawyer Ellison
#57 Doug Gaw
#62 Joseph Stephens
#66 Ian Hall
#72 Cameron Jacobson
#75 Jackson Lampley
#77 Jadin Smith
#78 Max Bostelman
#88 Kanayo Offodile
#95 Thomas Jouan
#99 Alex Massad

2013 Wins and Losses

MBA v.s. Mt. Juliet	(Loss - 0-38)
MBA v.s. St. Edwards	(Win - 31-0)
Cardinal v.s. Silver	(Silver)
MBA v.s. Sunset	(Win - 21-0)
MBA v.s. NC	(Loss- 7-21)
MBA v.s. BA	(Win - 32-12)
MBA v.s. CPA	(Win - 27-21)
MBA v.s. B. Blaze	(Win - 21-14)
MBA v.s. Bordeaux	(Win - 28-0)

BIG RED SPORTS

Microbe Cross Country

By Ben Coulthard

The 2013 Microbe Cross Country Team

The Microbe cross country team ended a very successful season with a third place overall finish in the championship meet at Harlinsdale Farm behind two very talented squads from BA and USN. Eighth-grader Isaac Wills led the top seven Microbe runners with an exceptional time of 11:38, earning 13th place overall. Isaac consistently led the large pack of MBA runners and ended up running his best race of the season in this championship race. Jamison Russ, Graham Ragsdale, Ivan Franco, Jake McSween, Christopher Falls, and Joel Elasy were the other top runners for MBA at Harlinsdale.

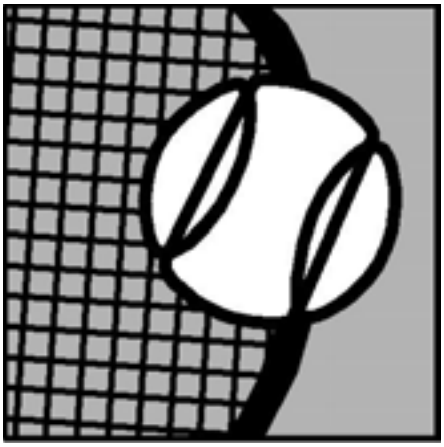
Throughout the season, MBA won two meets and finished a close second in two others, but the second place finishes were not a discouragement to the team. They served instead as motivation to continue to push each other during the runs up to the top of Love Circle as well as incentive to keep pushing to reach the goal of winning the HVAC Championship. Although that particular goal was not met, both coaches and runners felt the final race was the most well run of the season. Looking ahead to next year, the current seventh-grade runners look forward to the challenge of bringing home a first place finish in the HVAC for the Microbes.

R U N R E D RUN!!!

MBA in white left -to-right: Graham Ragsdale, Jake McSween, Ivan Franco, Christopher Falls, and Jamison Russ

Isaac Wills

BIG RED SPORTS



2013 Fall Microbe Tennis

By Mike Miccioli

Left to Right - Thomas Carr, Robert Cain, Nikhil Peterson, Hugh Graham

History was made this year with the introduction of the first fall tennis season. It was tough to find schools to play, since MBA was the only private school in Nashville with a fall tennis program. Our first match was in Chattanooga against Baylor. The team had hoped to mature with the departure of many rowdy 9th graders, but unfortunately, some 8th graders fell to their level and created a bus brouhaha for the second year in a row. While on the bus, a food fight ensued, including an airborne smashed banana. After arriving, MBA was prepared and trounced Baylor with a team score of 21-0, going 16-0 in singles and 5-0 in doubles. Our next match was on a Monday. The team boarded the bus after 4th period and headed for Knoxville to play the Christian Academy of Knoxville. We continued our success, although we did not win by a big margin. Two matches ended up going 9-8 in a tiebreaker, winning and losing one. The overall team score was 6-3, with the singles score 4-2 and the doubles score 2-1. Our final match was against rival McCallie at Sewanee. Unfortunately, MBA lost by a score of 3-6 (2-4 in singles and 1-2 in doubles) in the counted matches and lost 4-8 (3-5 in singles and 1-3 in doubles) in the uncounted matches.

Thomas Carr

Patrick Dennis

The goal this season was to improve a great deal in preparation for the HVAC in the spring and for the future. The Microbe tennis team is very optimistic since there was much competition in the positions 2-6, and because the number one player for the team was a 7th grader, Hugh Graham.

BIG RED SPORTS

Microbe B-Team Golf

By Cole Deal

The 2013 Microbe B Golf Team

The Microbe Golf B-Team had a great year. Our team consisted of sixteen players who all contributed to the team over the season. Those players are Adric Kimbrough, Centre King, Brawner Smith, Cole Deal, Manny Rogers, William Stewart, Webb Hunt, Drew Weikert, Marshall Summar, Daniel Skaff, Jackson Singer, Jack Harrington, Chris Hawkins, Walker Conner, James McKnight, and William Kinard.

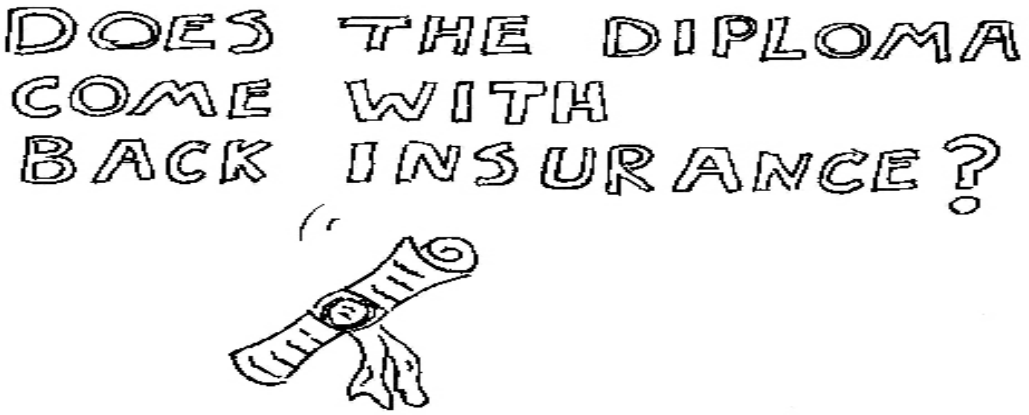
We played six matches and won them all, going 6-0. We played USN at Harpeth Valley, CPA at Harpeth Hills, FRA at Harpeth Valley, and Ensworth at Harpeth Valley.

We would like to thank Coach Kelly for everything he did for us over the season; without him we could have never done it. We would also like to thank Mr. Kimball and Coach O'Neal for their help in making sure we were at our matches on time.

This year for the first time there will also be spring golf. Look for Mr. Kelly's emails for that. This year was a great one. Congrats to everyone on the golf team for the 6-0 record this season.

The 2013 Microbe A Golf Team

THE BACK PAGE



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